seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on 31.12.1996 were 5.40 lakh.

(b) As per information available the number of Scheduled Castes and handicapped job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of the Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on 3 L 12.1995 (latest available) were 155.5 and 8.7 thousand respectively. Only seven Scheduled Tribe job-seekers are registered in the Employment Exchanges in Punjab.

Information on widows, ex-servicemen and terrorist affected job-seekers etc. is not maintained.

Job scheme for educated unemployed from poor families

986. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a job scheme for the educated unemployed from poor families; and

(b) if so, by when it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Employment is a thrust area of the Eight Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities in the country, both for the educated and the uneducated, on the basis of faster growth of employment intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. In addition, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for providing self-employment opportunities to the unemployed educated youth is being implemented in the country.

भविष्य निधि और पेंशन राशियों का निवेश

987. **श्री सोमपाल** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार भविष्य निधि और पेंशन राशियों को यूनिट ट्रस्ट, सरकारी क्षेत्र के उद्योगोम के ऋण पत्रों और सावधि जमाराशियों में लगाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना का पूरा विवरण और औचित्य क्या है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम. अरुणाचलम) : (क) और (ख) भविष्य्ल निधि/पेंशन निधि के निवेश के स्वरुप के पुनरीक्षण का एक प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचारधीन है।

Schemes and Programmes for Abolishing Child Labour from Hazardous Industry and Mines

988. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes and programme launched since April, 1996, for abolishing child
labour from hazardous jobs, industries and mines, in pursuance of Government's declared policy; and

(b) the progress so far made therein, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. .ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A major programme was launched in August, 1994 for the rehabilitation of an estimated 2 million children working in hazardous occupations. By the end of April 1996, 76 child labour projects had been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. These child labour projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. A major activity undertaken under the child labour projects is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. According to the information received so far, 1810 special schools have been set up covering about 1.04 lakh children. Most of these schools have opened after April 1996. Funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 123 districts and for awareness generation against the evil of child labour in 133 districts. The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement dated 10.12.96, has also given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from work